

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

BULLETIN

OF

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

No. 11.]

NOVEMBER.

[1887.]

XX.—COLONIAL FRUIT.

One of the most recent efforts of the Colonies to utilise their natural resources has been directed to the subject of fruit.

Where, as in the West Indies, fruit can be grown in large quantities and finds a ready market in the United States of America, it is but natural that planters, under circumstances of depression in other commodities, should turn their attention to fruit growing. In Colonies not so favourably suited as the West Indies as regards convenient markets, growing fruit and exporting it in a fresh state necessarily requires special arrangements for packing and shipping. If such arrangements were available at moderate rates there is little doubt large quantities of fruit could be grown and exported from Cape Colony, Natal, the Australian Colonies, and New Zealand.

Much of this, arriving in England during the winter and early spring months, would be readily bought to supply the wants of the community, and the prices paid for such fruit as an article of luxury would doubtless

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be sufficiently high to cover the cost of bringing it from the Southern Hemisphere. Consequent upon the interest taken in fruit shown from all parts of the Empire at the late Colonial and Indian Exhibition, an effort has been made by this establishment to collect information as regards the capabilities of each Colony to grow and export fruit, and this information it is proposed to publish in this and subsequent numbers of the *Kew Bulletin*. As introductory to the information now given, those interested in the subject may usefully refer to the article "Fruit" in the "Reports of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1886" [London: Clowes and Sons], and to a paper on "Fruit as a Factor in Colonial Commerce" published in the "Proceedings" of the Royal Colonial Institute, Vol. XVIII., 1886-87, pp. 123-159 [London: Sampson Low].

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW, to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Royal Gardens, Kew,
14th August 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that considerable interest has been awakened in regard to tropical and other fruits by the display of fruits in the several courts at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and by the sale of fresh fruit in the Colonial market attached to this Exhibition.

2. The fact that excellent fruits, such as oranges, lemons, pears, apples, &c., can be obtained in a fresh state from the Southern Hemisphere (Natal, Australia, &c.) at a time when fruits of this kind are not obtainable in the Northern Hemisphere has suggested the idea that the resources of our Colonial possessions in this respect are capable of considerable expansion, and the subject one well worthy of being thoroughly investigated.

3. The abundant character and the high qualities of the tropical fruits of the West Indies are well known, but it was only the other day (on the occasion of a lecture which I gave at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition) that many people realised that these fruits can be brought to England in a fresh state and are capable of contributing largely to the food supply of the inhabitants of these islands.

4. The fruit trade in the West India Islands is now of the estimated annual value of 750,000*l.*; but if suitable markets were forthcoming, and knowledge enlarged on the subject, there is no reason why this trade should not assume such proportions as would go a good way towards relieving the depression under which these islands are at present labouring.

5. As regards the actual capabilities in this direction of other portions of the Empire, and especially of the Cape and Australian Colonies, little is accurately known at home; and hence I would venture to suggest that inquiry be made, and a summary of information published calculated to draw particular attention to the subject.

6. I enclose herewith a number of questions which I have submitted to Mr. Thiselton Dyer, and I am directed by him to convey his approval of them, and to suggest that a copy of these questions be forwarded to each of the Colonial Governments with the request that the information desired be supplied as fully as possible, together with

copies of any official reports, documents, or returns published in the Colonies directly or indirectly bearing upon the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. MORRIS,
Assistant Director.

The Hon. R. H. Meade, C.B.,
Colonial Office.

Enclosure.

INFORMATION DESIRED RESPECTING COLONIAL FRUITS.

1. Please give a list (giving both local and scientific names) of the chief fruits grown in the Colony in order of importance.

2. During what months are the chief fruits obtainable? What quantities of each (approximately) are available for export, and what are the wholesale prices locally?

3. What fruits are at present exported (1) in a fresh, or (2) in a preserved state? Please state the destination, the quantity, and the estimated value of each sort.

4. Are all or any of the fruits mentioned above capable of being produced in much larger quantities than at present? If so, what steps are necessary to start or develop a fruit trade; and what inducements, if any, do local men especially desire to open or extend a trade in fresh or preserved fruits, either with the Mother Country or neighbouring States?

5. What fruits are now imported into the Colony, either fresh or preserved? Please state kind, quantity, and value, and the market from whence derived.

6. Please add any special points of interest connected with the fruits of the Colony herein reported upon which are desirable to place on record.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

Colonial Office,

September 16, 1886.

SIR,

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of August calling attention to the interest which has been awakened in regard to tropical and other fruits by the display in the several courts at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and enclosing a list of questions respecting Colonial fruits which you suggest should be answered as fully as possible by the Colonial Governments.

In reply I am to request that you will state to Mr. Thiselton Dyer that Mr. Stanhope fully concurs as to the desirability of obtaining such information, and he therefore proposes to transmit a copy of your

letter and its enclosures to the Governors of Colonies in a Circular Despatch which he is about to address to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

The Assistant Director, Royal
Botanic Gardens, Kew.

CANADIAN FRUITS.

REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the HONOURABLE THE PRIVY COUNCIL
FOR CANADA, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General
in Council on the 19th July 1887.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Circular Despatch, dated 17th November 1886, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, calling attention to the interest which has been awakened in regard to tropical and other fruits by the display in the several courts at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and enclosing a list of questions respecting Colonial fruits, which he suggests should be answered as fully as possible by the Colonial Governments.

The Minister of Agriculture, to whom the Despatch and enclosures were referred to report relative to fruits asked for in the letter from the Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, submits the accompanying report of Professor Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms of Canada, containing categorical answers to a series of questions for the purpose of obtaining information respecting Colonial fruits.

JOHN J. MCGEE,
Clerk, Privy Council.

MEMORANDUM by PROFESSOR SAUNDERS.

Query 1.—Please give a list of both local and scientific names of the chief fruits grown in the Colony in order of importance.

In replying to this query it has been thought best to append a brief description of each important commercial variety, so as to indicate more clearly their special points of merit. Differences of opinion exist as to the relative value of the several fruits referred to, owing partly to variety of taste, and partly to the modifying influences of situation, soil, and climate ; hence the accompanying list must be regarded as approximate rather than authoritative in this particular.

THE APPLE.

Baldwin.

A handsome apple of American origin. Free, vigorous, and productive. Fruit medium to large, nearly covered with red. Flesh juicy, crisp, and of fair flavour. An excellent keeper, and although variable in quality usually commands a good price in the market. Season, November to March. Is grown largely for shipment to Great Britain.

Golden Russet.

Also of American origin. An apple of fine quality and very productive. Fruit medium in size, dull yellow, thickly sprinkled with russet. Flesh juicy, crisp, and high flavoured. Season, November to February. Extensively grown for foreign shipment.

Northern Spy.

Of American origin. One of the best winter apples, of excellent quality either for dessert or cooking. Fruit of large size, pale yellow colour, with stripes of purplish red, covered with a thin white bloom. Season, December to May. Much grown for both home market and export. The trees are slow in coming into bearing, but afterwards produce regular crops.

King. (King of Tomkins Co.)

Believed to be of American origin. A large apple of a deep yellow colour, splashed and shaded with red. Flesh yellowish, juicy, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, November to February. Tree a strong grower and moderately productive.

Ribston Pippin.

A highly-esteemed English apple of medium size. Colour greenish yellow with some russet about the stem, and clouded with dull red on the side exposed to the sun. Flesh deep yellow, crisp, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, November to March. Tree forms a spreading top, and is a variable bearer, for which reason it is not largely grown.

Canada Reinette.

Probably of Canadian origin. A large and handsome apple, greenish shaded with brown, and sprinkled with dots and patches of russet. Flesh nearly white, rather firm, juicy, with a subacid flavour. Season, January to April. Tree vigorous and productive.

Red Canada.

Origin unknown. A slender growing tree, but productive. Fruit of medium size, yellow shaded with deep red, sprinkled with grey and greenish dots. Flesh white, tender, crisp, and juicy, with a delicate flavour. Season, January to April.

Rambo.

A popular early winter apple, valuable either for the table or kitchen. Size medium, colour yellowish white, marbled with pale yellow and red, and speckled with large brownish dots. Flesh nearly white, tender, rich, and mildly subacid. Season, October to December.

Colvert.

An old variety of uncertain origin. Fruit large, greenish yellow, striped and shaded with dull red. Flesh greenish white, tender, subacid. Season, October and November. Tree vigorous and very productive.

Wagener.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree an early and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, dull yellow shaded with crimson. Flesh yellowish white, fine grained, crisp, juicy, and of good flavour. A good dessert fruit. Season, November to February.

Grimes' Golden.

This is an American apple which originated in Virginia. Tree vigorous, hardy, and productive. Fruit of medium size, golden yellow with pale yellow flesh; crisp, juicy, rich, and spicy. Season, December to March. An excellent dessert apple.

Vandevere.

An American sort. Fruit medium size, colour pale yellow, striped and sprinkled with greenish dots. Flesh yellowish, tender, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, November to February.

Rhode Island Greening.

An American apple. A vigorous strong grower, and productive. Fruit large, dark green, becoming greenish yellow when ripe. Flesh yellowish, tender, crisp, juicy, and subacid. Much appreciated as a cooking apple.

Swaar.

An American variety which originated in New York. Size medium to large, colour greenish yellow, becoming almost golden when ripe, dotted with brown specks, and marbled with russet around the stem. Flesh yellowish, fine grained, tender, and aromatic. Of excellent quality. Season, November to March.

Roxbury Russet.

Originated in Massachusetts. Tree a healthy vigorous grower and very productive. Fruit of medium size, green russet, becoming brownish yellow when ripe. Flesh greenish white, moderately juicy, and of fair quality. A long keeper, which, if well kept, may be marketed in March or June.

Pomme Grise.

A small russet apple, probably of French origin. Tree a medium grower and good bearer. Colour of fruit grey or cinnamon russet. Flesh tender, rich, and high flavoured. An excellent dessert apple. Season, December to February.

Cox's Orange Pippin.

An English apple much esteemed as a dessert fruit. Tree rather slow in growth, but a good bearer. Fruit under medium size, yellowish, splashed, and mottled with crimson. Flesh yellowish, juicy, rich, and high flavoured. Season, autumn months up to November.

Dominie.

Origin unknown. Tree hardy, a rapid grower, and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, colour greenish yellow, splashed with red. Flesh white, tender, and juicy, with a pleasant flavour. A long-keeping winter fruit. In season from December to April.

Ben Davis.

Of American origin. Tree very hardy, a free grower, and abundant bearer. Fruit medium to large, almost covered with red. Flesh white, moderately, juicy, subacid. An apple of fine appearance and a good keeper, but inferior in quality. Season, December to March.

Westfield seek no Further.

An old and highly-esteemed American variety. Fruit medium to large in size, colour dull red on a pale green ground. Flesh white, fine grained, tender, and high flavoured. Season, October to January.

Fallwater.

Originated in Pennsylvania. Tree a strong grower and productive. A large apple of a yellowish green colour, shaded with dull red and sprinkled with large grey dots. Flesh juicy, crisp, subacid. Used chiefly for cooking. Season, November to February.

Wealthy.

An American variety which originated in Minnesota. Tree hardy, a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit of medium size, colour deep rich crimson on a pale yellow ground. Flesh white, stained with red, tender, juicy, and of good flavour. A variety which is coming greatly into favour. Season, November to February.

Yellow Bellflower.

An American variety which originated in New Jersey. Tree a moderate grower and a regular and excellent bearer. Fruit large oblong, of a handsome yellow colour, sometimes with a blush on the sunny side.

Flesh tender, juicy, crisp, and subacid. Season, November to February. This variety is extensively grown in Nova Scotia under the name of "Bishop's Pippin."

Jonathan.

Originated in Pennsylvania. Tree hardy, a moderate grower, and productive. Fruit of medium size, ground colour a light yellow, nearly covered with a brilliant dark red. Flesh white, sometimes pinkish, tender, juicy, with a sprightly flavour. Season, November to February.

Talman's Sweet.

A native of Rhode Island. A hardy tree, very vigorous and productive. Size of fruit medium, colour light yellow, generally with a dark line running from stem to calyx. Flesh white, fine grained, sweet. A profitable orchard apple, much esteemed for baking. Season, November to April.

Cayuga Red Streak.

A Connecticut apple. Tree a good grower and regular bearer. A very large and handsome apple of medium quality. Colour greenish yellow marbled with stripes of purplish red. An excellent cooking sort. Season, October to January.

Fameuse.

A justly-celebrated Canadian apple which grows well in many parts of the Dominion, but attains great perfection in the neighbourhood of Montreal. Tree moderately vigorous, hardy, and very productive. Fruit of medium size, colour greenish yellow covered with fine deep red. Flesh remarkably white, tender, juicy, and high flavoured. A handsome and popular dessert fruit. Season, October to December.

Gravenstein.

An apple of German origin. Tree vigorous and productive, an early bearer. Fruit medium to large, colour bright yellow when ripe, dashed and streaked with red and orange. Flesh tender, crisp, juicy, and high flavoured. Successfully and extensively grown for export in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, where it is produced in great perfection. Season, September and October.

Alexander.

A very large and showy apple of Russian origin. Colour pale orange, brilliantly streaked and marked with bright red. Flesh yellowish white, crisp, and juicy, chiefly used for cooking. Tree hardy and productive. Season, October and November.

Maiden's Blush.

An American apple which originated in New Jersey. A very beautiful fruit of medium size with a delicate waxen appearance. Colour

pale yellow with a bright red or crimson cheek. Flesh white, tender, subacid. Tree a rapid grower and bears large crops. Season, September and October. An excellent apple for cooking or drying.

Keswick Codlin.

A well-known English cooking apple, which is successfully grown in many parts of the Dominion. Tree a moderate grower and an early and abundant bearer. Fruit above medium size, yellow. Flesh yellowish white, juicy, subacid. Season, September and October.

Duchess of Oldenburgh.

A handsome apple of Russian origin, and one of the most profitable sorts in cultivation. The tree is vigorous, an early, regular, and abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, of a golden yellow colour streaked with red, and with a blush bloom on the surface. Flesh sprightly, juicy, subacid. Season, August and September. Extensively cultivated for the home market, and of late has been exported in considerable quantities.

Red Astrachan.

Another beautiful apple of Russian origin. Tree a free grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit medium size, almost entirely covered with a rich red colour, and coated with a whitish bloom. Flesh white, crisp, juicy, with a rich acid flavour. Season, late in July and August. Extensively grown for market.

Chenango Strawberry.

An American apple which originated in New York. Tree a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit of medium size, colour whitish mottled and splashed with light and dark crimson. Flesh white, tender, juicy, and mildly subacid. Season, September and October. Cultivated chiefly for the home market.

Montreal Peach.

Tree a fair grower and good bearer. Fruit of medium size, very beautiful; colour pale yellow and waxy looking; sometimes with a pretty pale reddish cheek. Flesh white, tender, juicy, and of good quality. Season, September. Is much grown in the Province of Quebec for local markets. Being tender and easily bruised, this apple is not adapted for shipping to distant points.

THE PEAR.

Pears have been grown in some parts of Ontario for many years past in excess of the local demand, the surplus having found a ready market in the large cities of the United States. The earlier sorts could not be exported to Great Britain without careful selection and cold storage, but the late ripening varieties might be easily exported, and would no

doubt bring remunerative prices, In British Columbia, where the trees appear to be entirely free from blight and do not suffer from frost, pears are grown in the greatest abundance, and this branch of fruit industry might be extended indefinitely in that Province with much profit.

Winter Nelis.

A winter pear of Flemish origin. Tree hardy, thrifty, and fairly productive. Fruit under medium size, colour yellowish green, covered more or less with russet. Flesh yellowish white, fine grained, melting, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, December and January.

Beurre Gris d'Hiver Nouveau.

A winter pear of very good quality. Tree moderately productive. Fruit of medium size, obtuse pyriform, colour golden russet, with a reddish cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, November to February.

Beurre d'Anjou.

An excellent pear of French origin. Tree of vigorous growth and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, colour dull green, sometimes faintly shaded with crimson and sprinkled with russet brown and crimson dots. Flesh whitish, juicy, melting, with a pleasant vinous flavour. Season, October and November.

Beurre Hardy.

Tree vigorous grower, hardy, and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, colour greenish russet, sometimes shaded with brownish red. Flesh buttery, melting, with a brisk vinous flavour. Season, September and October.

Beurre Superfin.

A French variety. Tree healthy, hardy, and a fair bearer. Fruit medium to large, yellow, sometimes shaded with crimson on the sunny side, and thickly sprinkled with minute dots. Flesh very juicy, subacid, with a brisk agreeable flavour. Season, October.

Mount Vernon.

Originated in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Fruit medium in size, obtuse pyriform, colour yellowish russet, becoming brownish red in the sun. Flesh yellowish, juicy, melting, with a pleasant flavour. Season, November and December.

White Doyenne.

This is an old French variety, much esteemed. Tree a moderate grower and heavy bearer. Fruit of medium size, obovate, colour pale yellow, with sometimes a red cheek in the sun. Flesh white, fine

grained, melting, sweet, with a high rich flavour. Season, October to December.

Howell.

An American pear which originated in Connecticut. A vigorous grower and highly productive. Fruit medium to large, rounded pyriform, colour yellow, with small patches and dots of russet. Flesh whitish, juicy, melting, and of fair quality. Season, September and October.

Sheldon.

An American pear which originated in New York. A hardy, vigorous, and productive tree. Fruit medium in size, roundish obovate, colour yellow russet with a greenish tint, becoming sometimes reddish brown in the sun. Flesh whitish, very juicy, sweet, melting, with a rich aromatic flavour. Season, October.

Louise bon de Jersey.

This variety originated in France. The tree is a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit medium to large, oblong pyriform, pale green with a brownish red cheek, dotted with grey. Flesh greenish white, juicy, melting, somewhat astringent, with a rich flavour. Season, September and October.

Seckel.

This is, without doubt, the richest and highest-flavoured pear grown. An American variety which originated near Philadelphia. The tree is vigorous, hardy, and productive. Fruit small, obovate, dull yellowish russet, sometimes with a red russet cheek. Flesh whitish, very juicy, sweet, and melting, with a very rich spicy flavour. Season, September and October.

Beurre Clairgeau.

A very productive and early bearing variety from France. Fruit large pyriform with unequal sides, colour dull yellow, shaded with orange and crimson, and thickly covered with russet dots. Flesh yellowish, buttery, somewhat granular, with a perfumed vinous flavour; of fair quality and handsome appearance. Season, October to December.

Beurre Diel.

A pear of Belgian origin, vigorous and productive. Fruit large, varying from obovate to obtuse pyriform. Skin yellow when ripe, marked with brown dots and marblings of russet. Flesh yellowish white, rather coarse grained, but sweet, rich, and almost melting. Season, October to December.

Dr. Reeder.

A seedling of Winter Nelis, which was grown in New York. Tree very healthy, hardy, and vigorous, and remarkably free from blight. Fruit small to medium, obtuse pyriform, colour yellowish russet. Flesh slightly granular, juicy, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, October and November.

Duchesse d'Angouleme.

A popular variety which originated in France. Tree a vigorous grower and good bearer. Fruit very large, obovate, with an uneven surface, colour greenish yellow, spotted and streaked with russet. Flesh white, very juicy, sweet, with a rich flavour. Season, October.

Goodale.

An American pear which originated in Maine. Tree hardy, a vigorous grower, and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, yellow, with patches and dots of russet. Flesh whitish, melting, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, October.

Beurre Box.

A pear of the very highest quality, of Belgian origin. Fruit large and handsome, pyriform, dark yellow, with a light coating of russet. Flesh white, fine grained, melting, with a rich delicious flavour. Season, September and October.

Doyenne Boussock.

Also a Belgian pear. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit obovate, inclining to pyriform, colour deep yellow, netted with russet and with a reddish cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, sweet, aromatic. Season, September and October.

Flemish Beauty.

Supposed to be of Belgian origin. Tree a strong grower, very hardy and productive. Fruit large, obtuse pyriform, pale yellow, nearly covered with patches of light russet. Flesh yellowish white, juicy, melting, sweet and rich, with a slight musky flavour. Season, September.

Bartlett or Williams' Bonchretien.

One of the most popular of all pears, an English variety, which was early introduced into America. The tree is a rapid grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit of large size, pyriform, yellow when ripe. Flesh white, fair grained, buttery, sweet, juicy, and high flavoured. Season, September.

Clapp's Favourite.

An American pear which originated in Massachusetts. Tree a vigorous grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit large pyriform, pale yellow, faintly marbled and splashed with crimson where exposed to the sun. Flesh white, fine grained, melting, juicy, rich, and sweet. Season, September.

Tyson.

A pear of American origin, a chance seedling found near Philadelphia. Tree a vigorous grower and highly productive. Fruit of medium size, pyriform, deep yellow, slightly russeted with numerous brown dots, and with a more or less crimson cheek. Flesh juicy, melting, very sweet, with an aromatic flavour. Season, August and September.

THE PLUM.

Plums are grown successfully in different parts of the Provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia; they are also grown in considerable quantities in the western part of Ontario, especially along the shores of Lake Huron, in the district about Goderich, Meaford, and Owen Sound. Many thousands of bushels are sent annually to other points in the Dominion, and large quantities are forwarded to the large cities in the United States. The plums are usually picked before fully ripe, and in this condition and while gradually ripening they will bear transportation and handling for many days without serious injury. The following varieties are among those most esteemed :—

Lombard.

An American plum which originated in New York. The tree is a vigorous grower and an abundant bearer. Fruit of medium size, violet red with a pale bloom. Flesh deep yellow, juicy and pleasant, of medium quality. Season, late in August. One of the most profitable market varieties.

Imperial Gage.

A plum of American origin, raised in Flushing, New York. Tree a rapid grower and most abundant bearer. Fruit above medium size, oval, pale green tinged with yellow, and covered with white bloom. Flesh greenish, juicy, melting, sweet, and rich. Season, early in September.

Green Gage.

A European variety of the highest quality. Tree a slow grower, but an abundant bearer. Fruit rather small, round, green or yellowish green. Flesh pale green, melting, juicy, and of a luscious flavour. Season, middle of August to September.

McLaughlin.

An American variety of first quality, which originated in Maine. Tree hardy, vigorous, and productive. Fruit medium to large, nearly round, with a thin tender skin, yellow, dotted and marbled with red on the sunny side, and covered with a thin bloom. Flesh yellow, juicy, sweet, and high flavoured. Season, last of August.

Pond's Seedling.

Of English origin. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit very large, oval, and of a bright red colour with a whitish bloom. Flesh yellow, a little coarse, juicy, and sweet, but not of first quality. Season, middle of September.

Duane's Purple.

An American plum which originated in New York. Tree a vigorous grower and productive. Fruit large, oval or oblong, swollen on one side of the suture, of a reddish purple colour with yellow specks, and a lilac bloom. Flesh dark yellowish, juicy, sprightly, and moderately sweet. Season, middle to end of August.

Bradshaw.

Tree a vigorous grower and heavy bearer. Fruit, large obovate, of a dark reddish purple colour covered with a light blue bloom. Flesh, yellowish, rather coarse, juicy, sweet, and pleasant. Season, August.

Columbia.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit very large, nearly globular, brownish purple with a blue bloom. Flesh orange coloured, not very juicy, but sweet and rich when fully ripe. Season, August and September.

Sharpe's Emperor (Victoria).

An English variety. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit large, nearly oval, colour light lilac and purple on a yellow ground, covered with lilac bloom. Flesh yellow, coarse, not very juicy or sugary. Of medium quality. Season, middle of September.

Washington.

An American variety which originated in New York. Tree a strong grower but only a moderate bearer. Fruit large, nearly round, of a deep yellow colour, with a pale crimson blush or crimson dots. Flesh yellow, fine grained, sweet, and luscious. Season, middle to end of August.

Prince's Yellow Gage.

An American plum which originated on Long Island, New York. Tree hardy and productive. Fruit of medium size, a deep yellow colour, with a whitish bloom. Flesh yellow, rich, and sweet. Season early in August.

Yellow Egg.

A European plum. Tree a fine grower and good bearer. Fruit very large, oval, yellow with numerous white dots and a thin white bloom. Flesh yellow, rather acid until fully ripe. Highly esteemed as a cooking and preserving plum. Season late in August.

Coe's Golden Drop.

An English variety. Tree vigorous and productive. Fruit large, oval, with a well-marked suture, pale yellow, with dark red spots on the sunny side. Flesh yellow, rather firm, adheres to the stone, rich, sweet, and of good flavour. Season, late in August.

THE QUINCE.

Quinces are grown in the Niagara Peninsula, but not in any large quantity and only for home market. The varieties chiefly cultivated are the Orange Quince and Rea's Mammoth.

THE CHERRY.

The cherry succeeds well in most of the milder sections in Ontario and Quebec, yields large and regular crops in some parts of Nova Scotia, and all the varieties succeed well in British Columbia.

Of the Bigarreau or Heart cherries the following are cultivated in Ontario, the home market being supplied chiefly from those districts adjacent to the great lakes, particularly along the Niagara peninsula:—Black Eagle, Black Tartarian, Downer's Late Red, Governor Wood, Knight's Early Black, Napoleon Bigarreau, and Tradescant's Black Heart.

Of the Duke's and Morello's those mostly cultivated are Early Richmond, May Duke, English Morello, and the common red or Kentish cherry.

Several varieties are grown in great abundance in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, particularly about the Bear river district. They are said to be uniformly productive and profitable. They are chiefly seedling fruits, the relative qualities of which have not yet been fully determined.

In British Columbia all varieties of the cherry grow most luxuriantly and produce heavy crops.

THE APRICOT.

The Apricot is cultivated to a very limited extent in Ontario, chiefly along the Niagara peninsula. This fruit could be grown in large

quantities in British Columbia where it succeeds well. Breda, Early Golden, and Moorpark are the varieties which have been chiefly tested

THE NECTARINE.

This fruit is only occasionally met with, grown in the Niagara district and on the shores of Lake Huron about Goderich.

THE PEACH.

The peach is grown to a considerable extent along the borders of Lakes Erie, Huron, and Ontario, but especially in the Niagara peninsula. The crop is almost entirely consumed in the home market. The varieties chiefly grown are the Early and Late Crawford, Early Canada, Honest John, Early Beatrice, Hale's Early, Lemon Cling, and Royal George.

THE GRAPE.

But a few years ago it was held that the climate of Canada was quite unsuited to grape culture ; that the winter season was too cold, and the summer too short, to permit of the healthy growth of the vine and the ripening of the fruit. Now many hundreds of tons are annually grown, and the Canadian market, which was formerly supplied almost entirely from the United States, is now cheaply and abundantly furnished with home-grown fruit. This change has been mainly brought about by the introduction of new and earlier ripening sorts, produced from native wild grapes crossed with foreign varieties. The following are among the most popular and widely cultivated sorts, all of which are grown in the open air and ripened without artificial aid :— Agawam, Barry, Clinton, Concord, Delaware, Massasoit, Merrimac, Wilder, Moore's Early, Worden, Burmet, Brighton, Niagara, Early Victor, Jessica.

THE GOOSEBERRY.

English gooseberries are not generally grown with much success in Canada, for the reason that the berries mildew before they reach maturity and drop from the bunches ; but there are several excellent sorts of a smaller size which do exceedingly well and bear large crops of very good fruit. These have been produced by improving the native gooseberries by cross-fertilising with the larger English varieties and by selection. Chief among these are Downing's Seedling, Smith's Improved, Houghton's Seedling, and American Seedling, all of which are very prolific, are grown in large quantities for the home market, and freely used by the people of Canada.

THE BLACK CURRANT.

This fruit is also grown with universal success. The Black Naples is the variety chiefly cultivated, but the wild black currants of the North-west, *Ribes hudsonianum* and *R. floridum*, are highly esteemed throughout Manitoba and the territories, and *R. hudsonianum* is being cultivated by many with success. It is believed to be a heavier bearer than the Black Naples ; has a stronger flavour when eaten fresh, but when made into jelly or preserve is fully equal in quality to the Black Naples.

THE RED AND WHITE CURRANT.

Many varieties of these useful fruits are grown with much success in every part of the Dominion. They succeed not only in the Maritime and Central Provinces and British Columbia, but also remarkably well in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, bearing large crops, which are grown chiefly for family use, and to supply the local markets.

Those most esteemed, Victoria, Fay's Prolific, Versailles, Cherry, Red Dutch, and White Grape.

THE RASPBERRY.

Many sorts of this useful fruit are cultivated for market in Canada, and also for canning. The red varieties, most hardy and productive, owe their parentage to the native red raspberry, *Rubus strigosus*, from which they have been produced by cross-fertilisation and selection. The European sorts, derived from *Rubus Idæus*, are not uniformly hardy; in some localities they do well, but in others they suffer from the climate, the canes being partially winter-killed when low temperatures prevail in the absence of deep snow.

The red varieties chiefly grown are Turner Cuthbert, Philadelphia, Brandy Wine, Clarke, Niagara, and Shaffer's Colossal. Of white varieties, Caroline and Bunckle's Orange.

The black cap raspberries are derived from *Rubus occidentalis*, and the following are among those most esteemed:—Mammoth Cluster, Gregg Tyler, Ohio Hilbon, and Davison's Thomless.

Several varieties of the large cultivated blackberry succeeded well in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia. The Kittatinny and the Wilson's Early bear heavy crops in some localities, but the Snyder, although not quite so large, is more generally grown on account of its greater hardiness and uniform productiveness. Many other sorts are being tested in different parts of the Dominion.

THE STRAWBERRY

Is perhaps more generally and extensively cultivated than any other of the small fruits. Ripening early in the summer, when no other fruits are in season, they are universally appreciated and in great demand; thousands of bushels find a ready sale in the towns and cities, and large quantities are preserved or canned for use later in the season. There are from 40 to 50 varieties in general cultivation, the most popular of which are the following;—Atlantic, Bidwell, Cumberland, Triumph, Crescent, Cornelia, Charles Downing, Daniel Boone, Early Canada, Glendale, James Vick, Jersey Queen, Manchester, Mrs. Garfield, President Wilder, Sharpless, and Wilson's Albany.

WILD FRUITS.

The Blueberry.

Under this general term the fruits of several species of *Vaccinium* are included, which are found growing in all parts of Canada, but most abundantly in rocky and sandy districts. The varieties which yield the larger part of the fruit found in commerce are *Vaccinium Canadense*, *V. Pennsylvanicum*, and *V. corymbosum*. Immense quantities of blueberries are sent to the cities and towns of Canada, being gathered by the settlers in the back townships and by the Indians.

This fruit is nearly oblong in form, varies in size from a quarter to three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and is of a dark blue colour, generally covered with a light bloom. The skin is thin, and the pulp sweet and melting, with very small seeds, and a pleasant acidulous taste. A valuable wild fruit, much eaten in the raw state, also in pies and tarts; they are also canned for winter use.

The Saskatoon Berry.

This is known also under the name of Poire. It is the product of *Amelanchier alnifolia*, and is found growing over the whole of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. The shrub varies in height in different localities as well as in the size of the fruit and shape of the leaves. The berries are usually about half an inch long and one third less in diameter; it is rather insipid to the taste, but is sweet and nutritious. It is used by the settlers both fresh and preserved, and by the Indians dried and fresh.

The Cranberry.

Cranberries are the fruit of *Oxycoccus macrocarpus* and *O. vulgaris*; they grow in great abundance in many parts of the Dominion, especially in the Province of Nova Scotia, where they are an important article of export. *O. macrocarpus* furnishes the larger portion of the crop marketed.

OTHER WILD FRUITS.

In addition to the wild fruits already referred to, wild plums occur in abundance in most of the provinces, and in some districts are brought to market in large quantities. Although only one species is recognised, the fruit varies both in size and colour in a remarkable manner. The colours are red, yellow, and dark bluish-purple, and the quality and character of the flesh varies also. In size they range from half an inch to an inch in diameter, varying in form from round to oval.

Several species of the wild cherries are also abundant, notably *Prunus virginiana*, *P. serotina*, and *P. demissa*. The latter, which is believed to be the species that grows chiefly in the North-west Territories, is the only sort eaten, although the fruit of *P. serotina* is sold in the markets and used for making cordials similar to cherry brandy.

The wild smooth gooseberry, *Ribes oxycanthoides*, although of very small size, is a marketable product in the Province of Quebec, and is said to be equal in flavour to the cultivated sorts. The form found in the Maritime provinces produces larger fruit and appears to be equally productive.

Wild raspberries and strawberries both find their way to the markets in the towns and rural districts in very large quantities, especially the raspberry. They are partly consumed in the fresh state and the remainder canned or preserved.

Query 2.—During what months are the chief fruits obtainable; what quantities of each approximately are available for export; and what are the wholesale prices locally?

The early apples begin to ripen in August, and some of the later winter sorts will keep in a cool cellar in good condition until the follow-

ing June; the greater [part] of the crop, however, is shipped during the month of October.

Pears vary much in time of ripening, and cover the season from August to February. Plums ripen in August and September. Cherries in June and July. The apricots ripen a week or two before the early plums, and the nectarine comes in the middle of the peach season, which extends from the latter part of August to the end of September.

Grapes ripen in September, and some of the varieties, if stored in a cool place, may be kept in good condition until the end of December. Gooseberries ripen in July, and black and red currants during the same month. The raspberries begin to ripen during the last week in June and continue until the middle of July. The early strawberries are marketable about the middle of June, and the later varieties prolong the season until about the middle of July.

The quantities available vary much, depending upon the character of the season. The exports during 1885 much exceeded those of 1884, while the crop of 1886, being larger than the two preceding years, will show a much greater increase. The local wholesale prices of apples vary from one dollar and a half to two dollars per barrel; pears from one to two dollars per bushel; plums from one to two dollars per bushel; cherries from five to ten cents per quart; peaches from two to three dollars per bushel; grapes from four to eight cents per pound; raspberries from six to ten cents per quart; currants and gooseberries from five to eight cents per quart; and strawberries from six to eight cents per quart.

Query 3.—What fruits are at present exported (1) in a fresh or (2) in a preserved state? Please state the destination, the quantity, and the estimated value of each port.

The exports of fresh fruits for the year ending on the 30th June 1886 were as follows:—Apples to Great Britain, 176,505 barrels, value \$410,898; to the United States, 41,407 barrels, value \$55,302; to other countries; 4,831 barrels, value \$10,804. Other fruits were exported of the following value:—To Great Britain, \$38; to the United States, \$22,064; to other countries, \$492.

Query 4.—Are all or any of the fruits mentioned above capable of being produced in much larger quantities than at present? If so, what steps are necessary to start or develop a fruit trade, and what inducements, if any, do local men specially desire to open or extend a trade in fresh or preserved fruits either with the Mother Country or neighbouring States?

All the fruits mentioned are capable of being produced in much larger quantities than at present, indeed there is no practical limit to the capacity of Canada for the production of fruit. A very large number of young orchard trees are being planted annually, which will shortly result in a greatly increased yield. The experience gained during the recent Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London has shown the importance of cold storage in the transportation of fruit, especially of the early ripening sorts, and it is highly desirable that facilities in this direction should be offered to the fruit growers of Canada so as to stimulate the export of autumn fruits.

The Government of Canada are establishing in most of the larger provinces experimental farms, where many experiments in fruit production will be carried on, new and promising fruits introduced from all parts of the world with the view of enlarging the area of fruit culture and increasing production. With suitable information given as to the

most profitable sorts to grow, and the excellent facilities now provided for rapid transport, it is believed that the energy of Canadian fruit growers will furnish all the other stimulus needed to enlarge and extend this important branch of agricultural industry, and, with reasonable facilities, furnish supplies for all the markets which may be open to them.

Query 5.—What fruits are now imported into the Colony either fresh or preserved? Please state kind, quantity, and value, and the market from whence derived.

The imports of such fruits into Canada (as might in large proportion be grown here) for the year ended June 30th, 1886, were as follows:—Apples from the United States, 31,575 barrels, value \$63,775; small fruits, viz., blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries, from the United States, 231,378 lbs., value \$23,557; cherries and currants, from the United States, 51,085 quarts, value \$4,914; cranberries, plums, and quinces, from the United States, 17,170 bushels, value \$34,650; from Newfoundland, 15 bushels, value \$13; grapes from the United States, 389,868 lbs., value \$27,340; peaches from the United States, 592,880 lbs., value \$42,571.

Canned fruits from Great Britain, 1,512 lbs., value \$149; from the United States, 592,391 lbs., value \$34,495.

Query 6.—Please add any special points of interest connected with the fruits of the Colony herein reported upon which are desirable to place on record.

It should be borne in mind that a large proportion of the green or fresh fruits imported into Canada from the United States consist of early ripening sorts, which are obtainable from the southern portions of that Republic several weeks in advance of Canadian fruits, and are in demand chiefly among those classes of the community who can afford to pay for such luxuries out of season.

D. M.